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*Lollardy and the Reformation in England: an Historical Survey.*

By JAMES GAIRDNER, C.B., LL.D., D.Litt. Volume III. (London and New York: Macmillan and Company. 1911. Pp. xliii, 415.)

THE third instalment of Dr. Gairdner's *magnum opus* covers the period of Edward VI., and develops, during a period of marked Protestant ascendancy, the theories which he first advanced in its predecessors. Considering the fact that he announces that his object is "to show the influence of Lollardy on the Reformation", most of his readers will probably be surprised to find little or no explanation of the connection between the two movements. We are assured every now and then "that the principles of Lollardy cropped up again in the Reformation", that "the two things almost seem to be one at this time", that "Lollardy is with us still to some extent", and that "there is no getting rid of it entirely just as there is no getting rid of error or narrowness", but we are forced to take these statements on Dr. Gairdner's authority alone, for he brings forward no evidence to support them. If anything more than a mere question of names is involved in his theories of the continuity of heresy, it surely remains to be proved.

The book is, in effect, a severe arraignment of the doctrines and conduct of the lay and clerical leaders of the government in a period which teems with constitutional and religious innovations, and gives the author an admirable opportunity to display his hostility to "heresy" of all sorts. No attempt is made any longer to conceal the strong bias which was occasionally veiled in the earlier volumes. In one sense this is a distinct advantage, because the unwariest of readers could not possibly be deceived into thinking that the book which lies before us represents anything but a strongly partizan attitude. The author expresses his opinion freely on men and events, but, as the work progresses, it becomes increasingly easy to forecast what that opinion is to be. The imprisoned bishops are invariably extolled for their conscientious refusal to sanction innovation; the government minions invariably condemned for their subservience. Much-abused martyrologist Foxe of course comes in for criticism and refutation at every turn; no dog of that breed is so dead but that Dr. Gairdner must needs beat him. One wonders what he will do when the shoe is on the other foot, and he attacks the reign of Mary. It is certainly clear that his enemies must henceforth make up their minds to be judged by ideal standards according to strictest Actonian principles: no such harsh norm, however, is likely to be set up for his friends.

More strongly partizan than its predecessors, the present volume rests far less completely on the sources. Dr. Gairdner's intimate knowledge of the manuscript material for the reign of Henry VIII. is enough in itself to invest all his writings on that period with importance. With the reign of Edward VI., however, he is far less familiar. None of his

researches has led him to delve particularly deep in this field: the Domestic Calendar for the period is so poor and meagre as to be virtually negligible—the Foreign and Venetian ones are little better, and the Spanish does not cover the reign at all. Dasent's *Acts of the Privy Council* are of course valuable, but they are nothing in comparison with the enormous mass of material which has been made accessible, chiefly through Dr. Gairdner's own efforts, in the *Letters and Papers of the Reign of Henry VIII*. In attacking the period of Edward VI. he has lost the vantage-ground which he has hitherto possessed: he relies, in the present volume, for the most part on printed material which has been long accessible; and the novelty of his work lies rather in the judgments it pronounces than in the facts it contains. The element which has constituted the chief value of his earlier writings is almost absent; but he has given freer play than usual to his individual opinion, which, to say the least, is not always to be trusted.

It seems graceless to write thus disparagingly of the work of a veteran scholar now in his eighty-fourth year, who has spent the better part of his life in rendering the material for the history of the first half of the sixteenth century in England more accessible than that of any other period of her long and glorious annals—particularly so, when it is obvious, at every line, that the author regards the present book as the culmination of his labors. We have done so because the very fact that his name is on the title-page is bound to give the book great importance, and because its bias is so obvious that it challenges controversy in a way which it is impossible to ignore. Future volumes will be awaited with mingled eagerness and apprehension.

ROGER BIGELOW MERRIMAN.

*Histoire de Belgique*. Par H. PIRENNE, Professeur à l'Université de Gand. Volume IV. *La Révolution Politique et Religieuse, le Règne d'Albert et d'Isabelle, le Régime Espagnol jusqu'à la Paix de Munster (1648)*. (Brussels: Henri Lamertin. 1911. Pp. vii, 495.)

IN the course of M. Pirenne's account of the Eighty Years' War as told in this fourth volume of his *History of Belgium* occurs the first definite parting of the ways between the two groups of Netherland provinces. The fortunes of the Dutch republic are left to Professor Blok in his *Geschiedenis van het Nederlandsche Volk*, and from 1579 the pages of Pirenne are devoted exclusively to Belgium in her institutional, economic, social, and political individuality. The epoch between Alva's arrival and the formation of the unions of Arras and Utrecht has been worked over in every detail. M. Pirenne points out that in the early half of this volume, devoted to 1572–1579, he was embarrassed by the richness, in the latter, by the poverty, of his material. For the first part he has used the investigations of others and the narrative, clear and